

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-04 INR-07 INRE-00 SS-15
SSO-00 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 /046 W
-----211533Z 024493 /50S

O R 211413Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2303
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1581

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MILI, AWACS
SUBJECT: NATO AEW DEBRIEF OF SYG LUNS AND PERMREPS

REF: A) STATE 061945 DTG 192110MAR77; B) STATE 061976
DTG 192211ZMAR77; C)STATE 060506 DTG 180600ZMAR 77.

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A, AND AFTER COORDINATION WITH
FRG AMBASSADOR (PAULS), AMBASSADOR STRAUSS-HUPE SENT THE
FOLLOWING LETTER TO SYG LUNS AND ALL PERMREPS (INCLUDING
FRANCE): BEGIN TEXT.

HIS EXCELLENCY; JOSEPH M.A.H. LUNS; SECRETARY GENERAL;
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION; BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
DEAR JOSEPH:

IN ANTICIPATION OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING TO BE
HELD ON MARCH 25, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN HAS ASKED
ME TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE INFORMATION IN THIS LETTER.

AS YOU KNOW, ON MARCH 15 AND 16, MINISTER OF DEFENSE
LEBER OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY MET IN WASHINGTON
WITH SECRETARY BROWN. THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED A BROAD
RANGE OF DEFENSE TOPICS INCLUDING THE NATO AEW PROGRAM.
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BOTH MINISTERS AGREED THAT NATO AEW WOULD PROVIDE
THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF MEETING THE GROWING WARSAW
PACT LOW-LEVEL AIR THREAT. THE MEETING ALLOWED THEM TO
REACH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EACH GOVERNMENT'S POSITION
AND THE PROBLEMS REMAINING TO BE SOLVED.

SECRETARY BROWN TOLD MINISTER LEBER THAT HE DID NOT
BELIEVE THE US CONGRESS WOULD SUPPORT A US SHARE IN THE
PROGRAM OF MORE THAN 33 PERCENT. WHILE THE MINISTERS DID
NOT REACH SPECIFIC AGREEMENT ON THE APPROPRIATE US AND FRG
COST SHARES, THEY WERE SUCCESSFUL IN NARROWING THE GAP ON

THIS ISSUE.

BASED ON THEIR DISCUSSIONS, BOTH MINISTERS AGREED THAT THERE WAS A SUFFICIENT BASIS FOR A FRUITFUL DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING ON MARCH 25.

AS A RESULT OF THE MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY BROWN AND MINISTER LEBER AND SUBSEQUENT US REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE MARCH 25 MEETING, MY AUTHORITIES HAVE ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU THE FOLLOWING US POSITION.

IT IS THE US OBJECTIVE AT THE MARCH 25 MINISTERIAL MEETING IN BRUSSELS TO OBTAIN THE AGREEMENT OF MINISTERS TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO SUPPORT THE NATO AEW PROGRAM WITH THEIR CABINETS AND/OR PARLIAMENTS (DEPENDING ON CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES) AND TO REPORT PROGRESS ON NATIONAL APPROVALS TO THE MAY MINISTERIAL MEETING.

TO THIS END, THE US SUGGESTS THAT THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF PREPARE, FOR MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION ON MARCH 25, PROPOSALS ON NATO AEW COST-SHARING, INCLUDING:

(A) A PROPOSAL WITHOUT FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN PROCUREMENT WHICH INCREASES THE US SHARE TO 33 PERCENT, WITH A CORRESPONDING REDUCTION IN THE FRG SHARE;

(B) A PROPOSAL INCLUDING FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN PROCUREMENT ENTAILING USE OF THE CFM-56 ENGINE, SUBJECT TO THE CONCURRENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE.

THE PAPER FOR THE MINISTERS' CONSIDERATION SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT THE US IS PREPARED TO CONCLUDE MEMORANDA OF CONFIDENTIAL

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UNDERSTANDING WITH MAJOR PRODUCTION-SHARING NATIONS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MILITARY OFFSET EQUIVALENT TO THE VALUE OF INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION SURRENDERED IN THE INTEREST OF REDUCING OVERALL NATO AEW PROGRAM COSTS.

MY AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THERE IS A REASONABLE CHANCE THAT DEFENSE MINISTERS WILL AGREE AT THEIR MARCH 25 MEETING TO PRESENT THE NATO AEW PROGRAM FOR ENDORSEMENT THROUGH NATIONAL PROCESSES.

I AM PROVIDING COPIES OF THIS LETTER TO OUR COLLEAGUES ON THE COUNCIL.

WITH THE KINDEST REGARDS,
SINCERELY, ROBERT STRAUZ-HUPE
END TEXT.

2. COMMENT: WE EXERCISED OUR JUDGMENT, DRAWING ON TEXT OF REF B, IN STATING THAT QUOTE BOTH MINISTERS AGREED THAT THERE WAS A SUFFICIENT BASIS FOR A FRUITFUL DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING ON MARCH 25 UNQUOTE, AND IN WORDING THE STATEMENT OF WHAT THE US HOPES TO ATTAIN IN TERMS OF A MINISTERIAL AGREEMENT. WITH RESPECT TO THE LATTER POINT, WE ATTEMPTED TO FORMULATE LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE UK, BUT NOT BE UNDULY OPTIMISTIC. END COMMENT. STRAUZ-HUPE

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH MR. OTTO, S/S-O.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 30-Aug-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO001581
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703110/baaabckt.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: e19c01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) STATE 061945 DTG 192110MAR77; B) STATE 061976 DTG 192211ZMAR77; C) STATE 060506 DTG 180600ZMAR 77.
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2963035
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO AEW DEBRIEF OF SYG LUNS AND PERMREPS
TAGS: NATO, MILI, AWACS
To: STATE SECDEF MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e19c01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009